

# Mt Evelyn RSL News

Volume 3, Issue 1, Autumn 2013

A Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia



## THE AWARD WINNING MT EVELYN RSL

The Mt Evelyn RSL finished up a huge year where both the club and individual members received a number of awards and accolades. These included:

- Mt Evelyn Chamber of Commerce – Community Group of the Year 2012
- Shire of Yarra Ranges Council – Certificate of Recognition 2013
- Brigadier Michael Phelps – AM in Queen's Birthday Honours
- Dr William Hardy – Mayor's Lifetime Achievement Award (posthumous)
- Peter Henskens – RSL Life Membership
- Roger Boness – Nominated Senior Victorian of the Year 2012
- Ken Reed – AFSM Pumper named in his honour
- Dot Ervine & Laurie Hollier – RSL Certificate of Appreciation
- Diane Dickson – National Emergency Medal

Also Georgia McAleer, daughter of our Secretary and a familiar face around the club, was awarded a Shire of Yarra Ranges 'Certificate of Recognition' 2013.

In recognising the significance of the past year the club's President, Roger Boness, stated *'this has been a year where we've been able to achieve much for the club and our community. In looking back at our successful achievements I would like to extend the club's gratitude to our committee and to all our members, volunteers and supporters for all you have done to make this possible'*.

**Below: Roger Boness (Pres), Jim Hurley (Vic-Pres), Deanne Webb (Welfare), Mayor Cr Jim Child, Dot Ervine (Appeals), Anthony McAleer (Secretary)**

### 2013 Meeting Dates

Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – AGM

Mar 17<sup>th</sup>

April 14<sup>th</sup>

May 19<sup>th</sup>

June 16<sup>th</sup>

July 21<sup>st</sup>

Aug 18<sup>th</sup>

Sept 15<sup>th</sup>

*The Mt Evelyn RSL Meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month at 2.00pm at the:*

### Mt Evelyn RSL

#### Clubrooms

Behind: Hardy House  
49 Birmingham Rd  
Mt Evelyn Vic 3796

Ph: 9737 0767

Email:  
mtevrsl@gmail.com

#### Postal Address:

PO Box 182  
Mt Evelyn Vic 3796

#### Website:

<http://moutevelyn.vic.au/moutevelyn-rsl>



Follow us on facebook



## **Important Dates**

### **Coming Up:**

#### **SUB-BRANCH EXCURSIONS**

##### **Athenaeum Theatre, Lilydale**

Members of the club have enjoyed our quarterly excursions to the ATC this year. We will be doing the same in 2013 so come along and see:

- **Steel Magnolias**  
*March 2013*
- **Laughter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor**  
*June 2013*
- **The Light in the Piazza**  
*August 2013*
- **Are you Being Served**  
*Nov 2013*

#### **MT EVELYN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

##### **TWILIGHT MARKET**

- *Thursday  
Feb 14<sup>th</sup>*
- *Thursday  
March 14<sup>th</sup>*

#### **MT EVELYN HISTORY GROUP**

##### **SPECIAL TALKS at Hardy House**

- *Saturday Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>  
2.00pm  
Aborigines in the  
Yarra Valley*
- *Saturday March  
23<sup>rd</sup> 1.45pm  
'Heroes of the  
Aqueduct'*
- *Saturday April  
20<sup>th</sup> 1.30pm –  
Launch of the  
Book – 'The  
Happy Hermits'  
RSL Members  
free to attend*

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

2012 concluded with the Sub-Branch receiving the 2012 Mt Evelyn Chamber of Commerce 'Community Group of the Year' and 2013 commenced with us being awarded a 'Certificate of Recognition' in the Australia Day awards for our contribution to the community. Sincere thanks to the committee and members for their dedicated contribution during the year that gave rise to these awards.

2013 is proving to be as busy as 2012 for the committee and members of the RSL Sub-branch as we are in the process of redecorating 'Hardy House' in accordance with our leasing commitments with Yarra Ranges Council. To date the hall has been repainted and an external door frame replaced, all curtains have been washed or dry cleaned and preparations to enable the floor to be re-stained is under way. Yarra Ranges Council will also be installing a new kitchen during the financial year. Other projects include the installation of a new cabinet in the main hall, compliments of the members of the 'Mt Evelyn Men's Shed' who will be building it, re-organization of our memorial wall in the RSL annexe and relocating the Mt Evelyn Honour Board to the feature wall in the main hall.

Members are reminded that the annual general meeting of the Sub-branch will commence at 2.00pm on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February after the 1.00pm luncheon. Following the election of the new committee and the general meeting of the branch will commence. Members are encouraged to attend and those proposing to nominate for committee positions should ensure their memberships are current.

Agreement in principle has been reached with the Yarra Ranges Council to large scale landscaping of the RSL Memorial Garden at the top of Wray Crescent. Correspondence between the branch and council on this matter is encouraging.

Thursday afternoon tea and social activities will reconvene on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February, all welcome. Together we can make 2013 as successful as was 2012.

**LEST WE FORGET**

- Roger Boness

## **APPEALS OFFICER'S REPORT**

Last year we managed record sales for both our Anzac Token and Poppy sales and this year I'm hoping we can do even better. Few will question the merit and value of the RSL's Welfare work and many of you will acknowledge that the need for this work is increasing. Our community is generous in their support of worthy causes, but our fund raising capacity is severely hampered only by the number of volunteers to help sell Anzac Tokens. This year we are also hoping to sell tokens of a morning at Mooroolbark Station. If you are able to assist at all in this important work, especially to sell at the station, please contact me on: **9736 3638**

Regards,

*Dot Ervine – Mt Evelyn RSL Appeals Officer*

### **DON'T FORGET OUR AGM!!! – FEBRUARY 17<sup>th</sup>**

**1.00pm** – free BBQ lunch for members & guests

**2.00pm** – AGM & February meeting

Special guest on the day will be –

Aff Binnoore – Vice-President of the 'Outer Eastern Veteran Veterans Association'  
He will be unveiling his name on the Mt Evelyn Honour Board





# BETTY'S JOKE PAGE



An elderly man in North Queensland had owned a large property for several years where he grew mango and avocado trees. He often had young backpackers working for him during the picking season and he let them camp on the property.

One evening he decided to go down to get some fruit and grabbed a ten litre bucket to bring them back in. As he walked past the dam he heard voices and discovered there were a group of backpackers skinny dipping in his dam. When they saw him they cowered under the water and yelled out *'We're not coming out until you leave!'*

The old man frowned and yelled back *'I didn't come down here to watch you swim naked'*. Holding up the bucket he said, *'I'm here to feed the crocodile!'*

**Moral:** Old men may walk slow but they can still think fast.

A husband and wife are shopping in their local Coles. The husband picks up a carton of 'Carlton Draught' and puts it in their cart.

*'What do you think you're doing?'* asks the wife. *'They're on sale, only \$40 for 24 cans'*, he replies.

*'Put them back, we can't afford them'* demands the wife, and so they carry on shopping.

A few aisles further on the woman picks up a jar of \$80 face cream and put it in the basket.

*'What do you think you're doing?'* asks the husband.

*'It's my face cream. It makes me look beautiful'*, replies the wife.

Her husband retorts: *'So does 24 cans of 'Carlton Draught' and its half the price!'*

A gorgeous young redhead goes into the doctor's office and said that her body hurt wherever she touched it.

*"Impossible!"* says the doctor. *"Show me."*

The redhead took her finger, pushed on her left breast and screamed, then she pushed her elbow and screamed in even more. She pushed her knee and screamed; likewise she pushed her ankle and screamed. Everywhere she touched made her scream.

The doctor said, *"You're not really a redhead, are you?"*

*"Well, no"* she said, *"I'm actually a blonde."*

*"I thought so,"* the doctor said. *"Your finger is broken."*

A motorcycle cop pulled alongside a speeding car on the freeway.

Glancing at the car, he was astounded to see that the blonde behind the wheel was knitting! Realizing that she was oblivious to his flashing lights and siren, the cop cranked down his window, turned on his bullhorn and yelled, *"PULL OVER!"*

*"NO!"*, the blonde yelled back, *"IT'S A SCARF!"*

A Russian, an American, and a Blonde were talking one day.

The Russian said, *'We were the first in space!'*

The American said, *"We were the first on the moon!"*

The Blonde said, *"So what? We're going to be the first on the sun!"*

The Russian and the American looked at each other and shook their heads.

*"You can't land on the sun, you idiot! You'll burn up!"* said the Russian.

To which the Blonde replied, *"We're not stupid, you know. We're going at night!"*

I was driving with my three young children one warm summer evening when a woman in the convertible ahead of us stood up and waved. She was stark naked! As I was reeling from the shock, I heard my 5-year-old shout from the back seat, *"Mum, that lady isn't wearing a seat belt!"*

On the first day of school, a first-grader handed his teacher a note from his mother. The note read, *"The opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of his parents."*

A woman was trying hard to get the sauce out of the bottle. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her 4-year-old daughter to answer the phone. *"Mummy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle."*



Follow us on facebook:

[www.facebook.com/mtevelynrsl](http://www.facebook.com/mtevelynrsl)

# 2012 - COMMUNITY GROUP OF THE YEAR

The Mt Evelyn RSL received a very pleasant surprise at the Mt Evelyn Chamber of Commerce '2012 Business Awards' dinner in November by being awarded the '2012 – Community Group of the Year'. The Mt Evelyn RSL's representatives on the Chamber, Major Russell Kirby and Sandra Fitzgerald, were present on the night to proudly accept the award on the sub-branch's behalf. In accepting the award Russell thanked the Chamber and praised the work the sub-branch has done this year towards the welfare of its senior members and in reaching out to the youth in the community.

Then at our end of year BBQ luncheon on December 16<sup>th</sup>, President of the Chamber, Kathie Freeman, and Publicity Officer for the Chamber, Gary Freeman, (both members of the Mt Evelyn RSL) in front of the membership, presented the award to Roger Boness. Kathie also praised the work the RSL has done over the last few years and likewise Roger thanked the chamber and stated how proud the sub-branch was to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce, who in themselves have achieved much for the town recently.



## **Below:**

Major Russell Kirby (bottom right) with other award recipients at the Mt Evelyn Chamber of Commerce '2012 Business Awards' dinner.

Photo: Chamber of Commerce

## **Below:**

Gary Freeman, Publicity Officer for the Mt Evelyn Chamber of Commerce, Roger Boness, President of the Mt Evelyn RSL, and Kathie Freeman, President of the Mt Evelyn Chamber of Commerce, with the award.

Photo: Sandra Fitzgerald





# 2013 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD



**Left:** With the other 2013 'Australia Day Award' winners.  
Photo: Shire of Yarra Ranges



**Above:** Dr Bill Hardy's children accept his posthumous 'Mayoral Lifetime Achievement Award'.

**Above Left:** Deanne Webb, Roger Boness & Dot Ervine are congratulated by Christine Fyffe MLA.



**Left:** Mt Evelyn RSL members; Paula Herlihy, Deanne Webb, Dot Ervine and Roger Boness proudly accept the 'Certificate of Recognition' award from Cr Maria McCarthy, who is also a member.



# VALE - DR BILL HARDY

## Childhood

He was born William Harry Hardy on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1924 at Moonee Ponds. He grew up in Kensington, attended University High School and served with the school's cadets where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant. He was also the leader of University High School's orchestra for three years where he played violin.

## World War Two

In 1942 at the age of 18 he enlisted to serve in the Royal Australian Air Force. In 1943 he began his aircrew training, obtaining his pilot's wings later that year. He served at RAAF bases in Benalla, Deniliquin, Temora and Tamworth as a flying instructor before being seconded to No 6 RAAF Hospital where he was given medical training and then attached to No. 111 Squadron – Air Sea Rescue Flight. Just after the war ended he was sent to Madang in New Guinea where he flew in Catalinas with No 111 Squadron – Air Sea Rescue Flight. Their role was to provide air-sea rescue support and to drop supplies where needed. In March the following year the squadron was moved to Port Moresby, New Guinea. After nine months service in New Guinea he was sent back to Australia and discharged in September 1946 at the rank of Warrant Officer, having served in the RAAF for over four years.

## Medical Practitioner

The medical training & experience he had in the RAAF inspired him to become a Doctor. He undertook further training at Mildura and became a General Practitioner. In 1955 he arrived in Mt Evelyn and became the local practising GP, a role he performed for the next forty years. This was a period when local doctors made house calls and attended patients at all hours of the night and day. Many local residents were delivered by Dr Hardy, he estimates he delivered over 2500 babies in that period, and many local residents owe him their lives. One local historian states *'his home visiting of pensioners, his jelly bean gifts and his hearty personality left its mark on the community'*.

## Gwen Hardy

In 1973 Bill's wife Gwen successfully ran for council and served as a councillor for the Shire of Lillydale for the next five years, becoming the shire's first female president in 1976. She was later awarded an MBE for all her effort and hard work in the community. Bill & Gwen were a team and during this time Dr Hardy supported his wife in all her endeavours and often referred to himself as the shire's first 'male Lady Mayoress'.

## Community Groups

**MEEPPA** - In 1972 Dr Hardy and his wife Gwen founded this organisation and were extremely active in it for decades. In October 2008 he was honoured as a modern founder, making him a life member and declaring him Mount Evelyn's 'First Living Treasure'.

**CFA** - He was involved with the CFA for over 40 years and was made a 'Life Member' of the Mt Evelyn CFA.

**Senior Citizens Club** - He was instrumental in helping to form an 'Elderly Citizens Club' in Mt Evelyn and spearheaded the fund raising activities and donated funds to have clubrooms and a hall built. In honour of the efforts of Dr Bill & Gwen Hardy this hall was christened 'Hardy House'.

**Other Groups** - The 'Melba Centre', the Mt Evelyn Scouts, the Mt Evelyn RSL, St John's Ambulance, the Lillydale Athenaeum Theatre Company, Lillydale Rotary, the 'Lillydale Hospital Auxiliary', 'War Memorial Kindergarten', 'Citizens Advice Bureau', 'St Mark's Church', the 'Mt Evelyn History Group' and the 'Red Cross'.

**Mt Evelyn** - He was instrumental in persuading Lillydale Shire Council to purchase Morrisons Orchard which was turned into 'Morrison Reserve', 'Morrison House' and 'Mt Evelyn Technical School'. He was instrumental in the early 70's in having the Mt Evelyn open channel closed.



**Above:** Dr William Hardy – a familiar face at our commemorative services

**Below:** A past member of the Mt Evelyn RSL – Bill Harrison – who was an ex-Commando with 2/5<sup>th</sup> Commando Squadron.



## **PIPERS ABOUT PIPERS**

The sub-branch's Piper, Iain Townsley, has kindly forwarded the article (right) which has come from a talk he recently gave at the United Service Lodge. Keep an eye out in coming issues as Iain has consented to writing his memoirs of his time in the British Army to be serialised over the next 12 months in the newsletter.



**Prior to playing MacCrimmon's Lament, Piper Iain Townsley relates the death of the master piper Donald Ban MacCrimmon, Piper to the Clan Chief MacLeod at a supper of the United Service Lodge. The United Service Lodge is one of only four military Freemasons lodges surviving in Victoria.**

*"During the Jacobite Rising of 1745 the chief of Clan MacLeod whose seat was at Dunvegan on the Isle of Sky supported the Hanoverians cause. As MacLeod's piper, Donald Ban MacCrimmon was obligated to accompany his chief, but Donald Ban had an intimation of his fate, that he would not return from this conflict and wrote his well known lament, Cha till, cha till, cha till, MacCruimein ("MacCrimmon will not, will not, will not return."). It has been variously titled "No more, no more, no more, MacCrimmon" & "MacCrimmon shall never return". Donald Ban was captured on December 23, 1745 following the Hanoverian defeat at Inverurie. During his captivity, the pipers in the Jacobite army went on strike, refusing to play while the Master Piper was held captive, and he was subsequently released. However Donald Ban was later killed, when on February 18, 1746, with the Jacobite Forces marching on Inverness, Lord Loudoun led 1,500 men on a night raid in an attempt to capture Charles Edward Stuart. When the Government troops advanced upon Moy in the dark they encountered a watch made up of only a handful of Clansmen. In the encounter a single shot was fired and Donald Ban, standing next to his chief was instantly killed. With the death of their piper, panic quickly spread and Loudoun's forces fled in what is known as the "Rout of Moy". Shortly after his death Donald Ban's sweetheart added lyrics to the melody of the lament".*

## **VALE - BILL HARRISON**

Bill Harrison enlisted in the Second AIF in 1941 while still a teenager. At the time he lived in East Brighton but spent much time in Mt Evelyn where his family had a 'weekender' during the 1930's & 1940's.

Soon after war with Japan started, a call went out to all branches of the Army for volunteers for a new force formed for irregular warfare duties. Known as the '1<sup>st</sup> Independent Company' the unit was being trained to be used in sabotage and reconnaissance roles. Bill volunteered and trained for 6 weeks at the 'Guerilla Warfare School' at Tidal River in Wilson's Promontory. Afterwards he was posted to the '2/5<sup>th</sup> Commando Squadron'.

In May 1942 this unit was sent to New Guinea and deployed to Wau. From here Bill spent the next year harassing the Japanese in the area with hit and run guerilla tactics. Despite appalling conditions, enduring soaking rain, pests, diseases, lack of supplies food and medication, they did an extraordinary job hitting the Japanese in the area from the Markham Valley to the Bitol river. After 14 months surviving in the jungle fighting the Japanese, Bill succumbed to a number tropical diseases and was sent to Australia. When he arrived there he only weighed four stone, six.

The final campaign that Bill participated in was the Borneo campaign, serving at the landing and fighting at Balikpapan. Bill was discharged from the army in 1946 after five years war service. His father and brother Norman also served in World War Two. Bill was a member of the Mt Evelyn RSL about ten years ago. He has suffered from ill health for quite a while and passed away in December 2012 at Mooroolbark.



The article (right) has come in to help explain some aspects of military life clearer for those of us not in the know.

## TWILIGHT MARKET

In November 2012 the sub-branch had the opportunity of running the sausage sizzle at the Mt Evelyn Chamber of Commerce's first 'Twilight Market'. The market was a huge success and the sub-branch was able to make \$500 from the evening which went to paying for all the curtains in our hall to be dry cleaned. Many thanks to Roger, Deanne, Geoff, Chris, Alan & Iain who helped on the night.



## IT IS REALLY QUITE SIMPLE

Dumb civilian, I said to myself, but openly I said, "The system is really quite simple." You see, all people in the Army are soldiers, all privates are soldiers, but not all soldiers are privates. Some are officers who are commissioned, but some are officers who are not commissioned. Obviously if every private was called private it would be confusing, so some privates are called things like trooper, driver, gunner, craftsmen, sapper or signaller. Not all of the drivers actually drive because some of them cook, but we don't call them cooks, for that matter, not all drivers are called drivers – some of them are privates or gunners. Gunners as I'm sure you know are the guys that fire guns, unless of course they are drivers or signallers in which case we call them gunners rather than drivers or signallers just to make it clearer. All gunners belong to the artillery, except that in the infantry we have gunners who are called privates because they fire a different sort of gun, for the same reason we call our drivers and signallers private as well.

A Lance Corporal is called Corporal, unless he is a Lance Bombardier then we call him Bombardier to distinguish him from a full Bombardier, who is just like a Corporal. All other ranks are called by their rank for the sake of simplicity except that Staff Sergeants are called Staff, but they are not on the staff, some Warrant Officers, who are not officers, are called Sergeant Major although they are not Sergeants or Majors. Some Warrant Officers are called Mister which is the same thing that we call some officers but they are not Warrant Officers. A Lieutenant is also called Mister because they are subalterns, but we always write their rank as Lieutenant or Second Lieutenant, and second comes before first.

When we talk about groups of soldiers there obviously has to be clear distinction. We call them Officers and Soldiers although we know that officers are soldiers too, sometimes we talk about officers and other ranks which is the same as calling them soldiers. I guess it is easiest when we talk about rank and file which is all the troops on parade except the officers and some of the NCOs – and a few of the privates – and the term is used whether everyone is on parade or not. A large unit is called a battalion, unless it is a regiment but sometimes a regiment is much bigger than a battalion and then it has nothing to do with the other sort of regiment. Sub units are called companies unless they are squadrons or troops or batteries for that matter. That is not radio batteries and don't confuse this type of troop with the type who are soldiers but not officers.

Mostly the Army is divided into Corps as well as units, not the sort of Corps which is a couple of divisions but the sort which tells you straight away what trade each man performs, whether he is a tradesmen or not. The Infantry Corps has all the infantrymen for example and the Artillery Corps has all the gunners. Both these Corps also have signallers and drivers except those who are in the Signals or Transport Corps. Both these Corps provide a special service and that's why the Transport Corps provides cooks. In fact the Signals Corps is not a service at all because it is an Arm. Arms do all the fighting, although Signals don't have to fight too much, rather like the Engineers who are also an Arm but they don't fight too much either.

So you see, it's really quite simple.



# SPECIAL OFFER!!

Become a member of the **Mt Evelyn RSL** and get a free copy of –

## ‘THE LAST LIGHT HORSEMAN’.

For only **\$25** – you will become either a service or affiliate member of the RSL, get 4 copies of the RSL magazine ‘Mufti’ a year, get an ‘Ambassador Card’, receive our newsletter, be entitled to enjoy RSL facilities around Victoria, be entitled to special offers and discounts & be a member of a national organisation committed to selfless service –  
*as well as a copy of our book.*



Go to: [http://www.rslvic.com.au/customdata/index.cfm?fuseaction=display\\_main&ItemID=557&OrgID=195](http://www.rslvic.com.au/customdata/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_main&ItemID=557&OrgID=195)

Download a membership form, fill it in and sent it to the Mt Evelyn RSL with your \$25.

Or contact the Mt Evelyn RSL

Post – PO Box 182, Mt Evelyn, Vic 3796

Email – [mtevrsl@gmail.com](mailto:mtevrsl@gmail.com)

Phone – 9737 0767

If you find a **White Dot** on the front of your newsletter – it is a reminder that your

**2013 subs are now due**

And don't forget – pay before **March** and you'll receive a free copy of ‘The Last Light Horseman’.

## PLEASE NOTE

*Copies of*

‘THE LAST LIGHT HORSEMAN’

*are available for sale through the Mt Evelyn RSL  
or at the*

**Mt Evelyn Post Office, Station St**

## Membership Subs for 2013

**Full Members** – open to ex-service personnel who were in the uniformed services for a period of six months or more. **\$25 a year**

**Affiliated Members** – open to those who have served with the emergency services or whose relatives were service personnel. **\$25 a year**

**Community Members** – open to anyone – just means you don't have voting rights at the club. **\$5 a year**

**Tell us if you are over 80 years old – you no longer have to pay your subs!**

**Send a cheque or money order to – Mt Evelyn RSL, PO Box 182, Mt Evelyn**

**The Mt Evelyn RSL**

*is a*

*proud member of*

**The Mt Evelyn  
Chamber of  
Commerce**

Major Russell Kirby  
is the RSL's representative on the  
**Chamber of Commerce**  
– any ideas or issues for the Chamber  
ring Russell on:

**0499475784**



An environmental solution for hard service cleaning that saves water and stops discharge to the storm water system.  
**Residential & industrial cleaning**

*Total recycle technology means the most effective environmental choice.*

Call Russ Kirby:  
(Mt Evelyn RSL Member)  
on –

**0499475784**



For more information see:  
<http://youtu.be/0d2Rjdt4TCs>

## Art with Distinction

### Custom Framing



- Custom Picture Framing
  - Custom Mats
  - Restoration Work
  - Art Supplies

Steve Deakins  
(Mt Evelyn RSL Member)  
Ph: **9736 3033**  
Mob: **0429 183021**  
Shop 7B York Rd, Mt Evelyn  
[www.artwithdistinction.com.au](http://www.artwithdistinction.com.au)

*Where your work is treated with special care*

## St John Ambulance

St John always needs enthusiastic, willing and capable people - *just like you* - to assist us in helping our community save lives through First Aid.

The Mt Evelyn Branch meets every  
Tuesday night in the RSL Hall.  
Call – Diane Dickson on **9736 2490**



**Caring  
for Life**

## Academy of Human Development

On a Monday morning a group of philosophers meet at the 'RSL Hall' to discuss life's big questions:

\* **Why am I here?**

\* **Who am I?**

\* **Is there more to life?**

Anyone interested in joining should contact:

Sue Hamilton on **0428829612**.

Group sessions begin at 10am and finish at 12 midday.

Morning tea is provided.



## FITNESS CLASSES



**At the RSL Hall**  
**49 Birmingham Rd, Mt Evelyn**

*Improve your strength, Balance & Flexibility.*

Vicki provides a social One Hour Strength Training Class to suit a wide range of fitness levels. Personal attention provided & program modified as required to suit individual needs.

*Beginners most welcome!!* Bring a drink bottle & a smile! Bring a friend! Call in & try it – first class is free!! Weights provided.

Contact: Vicki Walburg

Ph: **9736 2980** Mob: **0408 998 045**

[vickiwalburg-fitness@yahoo.com.au](mailto:vickiwalburg-fitness@yahoo.com.au)

## Rock 'n Roll



Dances and lessons  
In the RSL Hall  
Every Wednesday Night

Call Linda Ph: **9736 1113**

## RALPH PROCTOR DISPLAY

Make sure you check out the Ralph Proctor RAAF display at the 'Mont de Lancey Museum' at Wandin. Ralph has been a long time member at the Mt Evelyn RSL & served with the RAAF in Europe during World War Two. He has loaned his wartime memorabilia to the museum and it is a fascinating collection. Includes items to do with his experiences at D-Day & Arnhem.



Mont de Lancey Museum & Homestead  
71 Wellington Rd, Wandin  
Open: Wed-Sun 10.30-4.30pm

## STEVE'S WHEELCHAIR & SCOOTER REPAIRS & SERVICE



Prompt attention  
to breakdowns  
SWEP &  
private work  
7 Days  
PH: **0400564267**

The Mt Evelyn RSL always uses:

**TIGER  
SIGNS**

\*Computer Cut Vinyls \*Digital Prints \*Banners

Contact Dave –

**0419 897 134 or 9737 0888**





# DOT FLENLEY'S STORY – pt 5

**This is the story of one of our past members, Dot Flenley. Dot served with the AWAS during World War Two and was a member of the Mt Evelyn RSL. In 1992 Anthony McAleer sat down with her and interviewed her about her memories. What follows is Dot's story.....**

*Last issue: Dot becomes an AWAS ambulance driver*

## **What was your job at Seymour?**

Ambulance driver. I mainly did Seymour to Melbourne, you'd go out to the camps around there, pick up a patient and drive them down to Heidelberg, to the repat there. I didn't drive one of the panel van type of ambulances, I drove what they called the 'Indian' type. It was a square truck that had a roof that came over the top of the bonnet, very hard to drive on a windy day, they used to get up a sway with them and you had to be careful. We usually carried two patients, the worse cases had attendants. It was a two and a half to three hour trip one way in those days. The roads were pretty good, a two-way bitumen road, not like it is today though. We'd fill up before we left and fill up again at a transport depot when we got down there. We always drove straight back from Melbourne, never stayed overnight. We'd be tired when we got back but the thing was you were young and I don't think you worried about that part of it. It didn't worry me, you knew you had to do it and you did it.

## **What would you do if you broke down on the way?**

I was lucky, I never had a broken down vehicle. Every day we had to do maintenance on the trucks, make sure the radiator was filled, the battery was right, you had enough oil and the tires had the right pressure. But when it came to doing a service or fixing anything, we weren't allowed to do that, it had to go up to the transport depot and men there would work on it. I mean we were taught all about all the main problems that can go wrong with a vehicle, so that you had to be able to find what the problem was, whether it was electrical or the fuel pump or what have you. Once we did, our job was to ring it through and they'd then send somebody to fix it. We weren't allowed to touch the vehicles or fix them ourselves. It was silly in a sense but that was their ruling and we had to abide by it. We were more or less wholly and solely a driver.

## **What sort of patients were you transporting?**

They varied as to what was wrong with them, some were minor and some were major. You didn't get a great idea of what was wrong with them because you didn't see them much because they were put in the back of the ambulance and taken out at the other end. Unless an attendant was with them, he'd sometimes tell you, but then only the serious ones had attendants. When I was there, there were a lot of boys who'd come back from New Guinea. Many of them were very bad with malaria. I felt sorry for those boys because malaria was a terrible thing for them, one I had had gone troppo. I didn't have any jump out thank God, I don't know what I would have done if they did. Another time I bought one poor chap down to the repat, he had malaria so bad he was just sort of delirious a lot of the time and in such a terrible state they had to have a guard with him. The guard was a Sergeant who sat in the cabin with me all the way there and back. Going back I always remember he wanted to stop at some place and have a coffee. Being a country girl I was very dubious about strangers and I wouldn't stop and told him we are going straight through. I often thought I wonder what he thought of me for not stopping – a hard old thing at the ripe old age of 19!

*Next issue: Her time with the AWAS comes to an end*

## **MT EVELYN FURPHYS**

- Welcome to new members – Kathie Freeman, Jack Martin & Jim Martin
- One of our members, Kim Parry, is a registered 'Justice of the Peace' and has offered his services to any member who should require it. Contact Kim on: **0418334416**
- Congrats to Laurie & Judy Hollier who have become grandparents for the second time with another on the way soon.
- Sad to note that the first soldier from Mooroolbark to enlist in WW2, Roland Griffiths-Marsh, passed away recently. His biography is 'The Sixpenny Solider'.
- Lance Corporal Chris McAleer is currently training at Puckapunyal before his six month deployment to the Solomon Islands.
- Should you require any assistance or advice - Deanne Webb (the Sub-branch's Welfare Officer).  
Ph: **0402 783 849**  
Or the Rev Richard Schoenmaker (the sub-branch's Padre)  
Ph: **9736 1087**



*If undeliverable return to:*

The Mt Evelyn RSL Sub-Branch  
PO Box 182  
Mt Evelyn Vic 3796

## **Club Opening Hours**

***Every Friday Night  
7.00pm – 10.30pm***

Celebrate the end of the week with a visit to the clubrooms.

Andy has a well stocked fridge and Peter is always on hand to make a brew if you so desire.

Friday night football/cricket will be playing on our big screen TV and don't forget we also have a pool table.

*While you're visiting make sure you check out the fascinating display of military memorabilia that members have donated over the years. This has all been exhibited in our new display cases and arranged by an historian from Museum Victoria.*

## **The Digger's Café**

The social club operates the club rooms every

***Thursday afternoon  
from 1.00pm to 4.30pm.***

If you're looking for something to do of a Thursday afternoon in Mt Evelyn why not call in for a chat or a game of pool or indoor bowls.

## **Hall Hire**

The RSL is a great facility for anyone who requires a place for clubs or social groups to gather. Most weekends this facility lies idle and the RSL could be making (albeit a small amount of) money from hiring it to interested parties. We would greatly appreciate your input if you know of anyone who might be interested in hiring the hall for a night or on an ongoing basis. However no Bucks/Hens or under 25's parties!

The Mt Evelyn Community Link is in charge of administering hall bookings and can be contacted directly on 9736 1177.

## **Mt Evelyn RSL Committee**

President –	Roger Boness	Ph: 9737 0830
Vice President –	Jim Hurley	Ph: 9876 3750
Secretary –	Anthony McAleer	Ph: 9736 4384
Treasurer –	Betty Crittenden	Ph: 9728 3065
Welfare Officer –	Deanne Webb	Ph: 0402783 849
Padre –	Rev Richard Schoenmaker	Ph: 9736 1087
Appeals Officer –	Dot Ervine	Ph: 9736 3638

**Editor:** Anthony McAleer

**Ph:** 9736 4384

**Email:** [antmca@bigpond.com](mailto:antmca@bigpond.com)

***Send me an email me if you want to receive the newsletter faster via email – it also saves the club on postage costs!***